

W. Hamp

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH
TO THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
POTTERSPURY.

1913.



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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF POTTERSPURY.

CALVERTON HOUSE,

STONY STRATFORD,

April, 1914.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my fifth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your district.

The past year has been remarkable for the lowest birth rate and the lowest death rate ever recorded. There were only 89 births and 62 deaths.

The birth rate is only 17·3 per 1000 births : it has been steadily falling since 1901, in which year there were 157 births, with a rate of 29·4.

There have been very few cases of infectious disease during the year. No case of Scarlet Fever was recorded. Five cases of Enteric Fever were notified from Potterspury.

The infantile mortality, 89·8, though slightly larger than last year, is very satisfactory considering the hot summer.

There were seven deaths in the year from tubercular disease, and twelve fresh cases were recorded. This is higher than it should be in a country district like Potterspury. The majority of these cases shew a marked family history of tubercle, and I attribute the number recorded more to this cause than to faulty housing conditions in the district. 30 of the 62 deaths were of persons over 70 years of age.

The death rate for the year is 11·9.

Natural and Social Conditions.

Area

18,509 acres. The district was formed in 1894, and comprises the villages of Ashton, Alderton, Hartwell, Paulerspury, Potterspury, Yardley Gobion, Grafton Regis, Cosgrove, Deanshanger, and Wicken.

Population

5,189 at 1911 census. I estimate the population to be about the same this year. There are 1,290 inhabited houses, with an average of 4 persons per house.

The inhabitants of the district are chiefly engaged in agricultural pursuits, but many are employed in the L. & N.W. Ry. Carriage Works at Wolverton or in the Iron Foundry at Deanshanger.

The Potterspury Union Workhouse is situated at Yardley Gobion, and many of its inmates come from Stony Stratford and Wolverton in the county of Bucks.

The nearest hospital accommodation is the Northampton General Hospital.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply

Hartwell, Wicken, and Deanshanger have public constant supplies of good quality. The rest of the district is dependent on shallow wells, more or less exposed to contamination.

A new public supply will be provided this year for Potterspury. This village has been dependent in the past on wells which are easily contaminated; a recent examination of sixteen wells in the village showed that the water from twelve was unfit for drinking purposes, and the village has hardly ever been free from Enteric Fever in any one year for a great number of years. Warning notices have been affixed to the condemned wells.

A new scheme is being prepared for a public supply for Old Stratford.

Rivers and Streams

No pollution recorded.

Sewage Disposal

The sewage is mainly disposed of by earth closets which are emptied every week, or by means of privies which are emptied annually.

Scavenging

The scavenging order has been adopted in the villages of Deanshanger, Cosgrove, Potterspury, and Old Stratford. The buckets are emptied and disinfected every week.

In cases of Enteric Fever, special buckets are provided, and the contents are specially dealt with. The method of sewage disposal works satisfactorily.

Premises controlled by Byelaws

There is no lodging house in the district.

Schools

These are regularly inspected by the School Medical Officer for the County. The sanitary condition of the various schools is satisfactory.

Food

Nine dairies are registered and periodically visited as are the eleven bakehouses, and slight defects have been remedied.

An epidemic of Cow-pox was reported from Paulerspury ; the herd was inspected by the County Council Veterinary Surgeon, and the milk from infected cows was not used for human food until they were certified as cured.

Housing

Thirteen houses were inspected and six were found to be unfit for human habitation. Six representations were made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders, and six closing orders were made.

In six houses the defects were remedied without the making of closing orders. One house was sufficiently repaired after making a closing order. The general character of the defects found was leaking roofs, dilapidated walls, ceilings, floors, doors, or windows.

Housing

Four cases of overcrowding occurred at Potterspury, and in every case the tenant complied with the order.

Two new cottages were erected during the year, but there is no supervision over the construction as the byelaws have not yet been adopted.

Generally speaking, the housing accommodation is sufficient for the working classes in the district. There are in each village many old-fashioned stone-built and thatched cottages, the chief defect of which is the smallness of the windows and the absence of fireplaces in the bedrooms. The older residents generally prefer them, as they are much warmer in winter and cooler in summer than the more modern cottage with a slate roof.

Factories and Workshops

The local factories are—

Messrs. E. & H. Roberts, Deahshanger.

The Midland Automobile Co., Old Stratford.

These factories are kept in a clean state, have no wet floors, and are properly ventilated, and the sanitary accommodation is sufficient. No home work is given out.

Sanitary Administration of the District.

The district is regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Fairchild, whose report is given below.

There is no Hospital for Infectious Diseases in the district, nor is one required.

The Council provide accommodation for Smallpox in conjunction with neighbouring Councils.

Prevalence and Control of Acute Infectious Disease.

Eleven cases were notified during the year, viz. : 3 cases of Diphtheria, 5 of Enteric Fever, and 3 of Erysipelas.

The Diphtheria cases were of mild type and were all resident at Paulerspury. Antitoxin was supplied at the expense of the Council.

The Enteric Fever cases occurred in the autumn at Potterspury, and in every case contaminated water was the cause. I hope that the new water supply which will be provided this year will be the means of putting an end to the continued outbreaks of this disease in this village. Children living in the same house where there is a case of Enteric Fever are allowed to attend school.

It is satisfactory to record that there were no cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year.

Administrative
Action taken

In dealing with infectious disease, a printed code of instructions is distributed, containing full information of precautionary measures advisable and penalties for non-performance of legal obligations in this respect. Disinfectants are amply supplied, and disinfection, under skilled supervision, carried out at the close of the illness. Temporary exclusion from school is advised in the case of children living in the same house, and, if the disease still spreads, total closure of the schools is recommended. A portable disinfectant is used when occasion requires.

Eucalyptus oil is supplied to Scarlet Fever cases when peeling commences.

Prevalence and Control over Tuberculosis.

There were seven deaths from tubercular disease in the year, and ten fresh cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified and two of tuberculosis of other organs were notified. On receipt of the notification the premises are inspected and any condition favouring infection removed. Printed instructions are provided and disinfectants supplied.

Means of preventing Mortality in Childbirth and in Infancy.

No deaths in childbirth occurred during the year. There are four registered midwives practising in the district. The Notification of Births Act is not adopted.

Vaccination

The proportion of children vaccinated is still decreasing. Out of the 277 children born in the several districts of the Potterspury Union during the year only 76 were vaccinated, 201 obtaining exemption orders.

Vital Statistics.

Births and
Birth rate

There were 89 births in the year, giving a rate of 17·3, the lowest recorded in the district; the rate for England and Wales is 23·9. 38 were males and 51 females, including one illegitimate.

Deaths and
Death rate

There were 62 deaths, giving a rate of 11·9, the lowest ever recorded for the district; the rate for England and Wales is 13·7.

Infantile
Mortality

There were eight deaths under one year old; five of these were of infants under a month. The infantile mortality is 89·8, while that for England and Wales is 109.

Causes of
Death

There were eight deaths from heart disease, seven from tubercular disease, and four from cancer; 30 were of people over 70 years old.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CECIL POWELL,

M.A., M.B., Cantab.

Report of Sanitary Inspector for Year 1913.

Defective drains made sanitary	...	...	...	10
New drains laid by private owners upon complaint being made	...	...	...	5
New stench traps fixed	...	...	...	6
Cesspits cleaned out privately	...	...	...	3
New cesspits built by owners	...	...	...	0
Offensive ditches cleaned out	...	...	...	12
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	36
Privies, etc., rebuilt and made sanitary	...	...	...	3
Verbal notices given as to dirty premises, stagnant water, etc.	...	...	...	47
Cases of infectious fever attended to (disinfectants served out, printed forms given to parents of precautions to be taken, and fumigation of houses after six weeks by order of Medical Officer)	...	...	...	8
Cesspits emptied by Sanitary Authority	...	...	...	16
No. of registered cowsheds	...	...	...	9
No. of Workshops	...	...	...	14
Total number of premises visited and inspected by Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	476

645

During the year four hundred and seventy-six premises have been inspected, also the dairies, cowsheds, and workshops registered within the district; and where any nuisance existed or repairs required, notices have been served.

JAMES B. FAIRCHILD,

Inspector.

TABLE I. Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population esti- mated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS. Nett.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Num- ber.	Rate. per 1,000 Births	Num- ber.	Rate. per 1,000 Births	of Non- resident registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year.		At all Ages.	
								Num- ber.	Rate. per 1,000 Births		
1908 ...	4987	128	25·6	99	19·8	3	No Record	9	70·3	97	19·4
1909 ...	4932	102	20·6	84	17·0	1		10	98·0	84	17·0
1910 ...	4932	124	23·7	82	16·2	3		4	56·4	83	16·8
1911 ...	5189	94	18·1	71	13·6	3		3	95·7	71	13·6
1912 ...	5189	113	22·5	75	14·4	6		2	44·2	77	14·9
1913 ...	5189	89	17·3	66	12·7	8	4	8	89·8	62	11·9

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) ... 18,509

Total Population at all ages ... 5189 }
 Number of inhabited houses ... 1290 }
 Average number of persons per house ... 4 }
 At Census of 1911

TABLE II. Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1913 in the Rural District of Potterspury.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED							Total cases notified in each locality			Total cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years									
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up-wards	1	2		3
Small Pox											
Cholera											
Plague											
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	3		3								
Erysipelas	3			1	1		1				
Scarlet fever											
Typhus fever											
Enteric fever	5		3		2						
Relapsing fever											
Continued fever											
Puerperal fever											
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis											
Polionymyelitis	9		2	1	5		1				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	1	1		1						
Other forms of Tuberculosis											
Totals	23	1	9	2	9		2				

Isolation Hospital, Sanatoria, &c.—None in District.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the year 1913 in the Rural District of Potterspurv.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF "RESIDENTS" OR "NON- RESIDENTS" IN INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
All causes { Certified { Uncertified ... ..	...								
Enteric Fever										
Small Pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough	1		1							
Diphtheria and Croup										
Influenza										
Erysipelas										
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3					2	1			
Tuberculous Meningitis	1						1			
Other Tuberculous Diseases	3			1	2					
Cancer, malignant disease	4							2	2	1
Rheumatic Fever	1						1			
Meningitis										
Organic Heart Disease	8					1	2	2	3	
Bronchitis	5	1					1		3	
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	1						1		
Other diseases of respiratory organs										
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	2	2								
Appendicitis and Typhlitis										
Cirrhosis of Liver... ..	1							1		
Alcoholism										
Nephritis and Bright's Disease										1
Puerperal Fever										
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1						1			
Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, including Premature Birth	4	4								
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide										
Suicide										
Other Defined Diseases	26					2	2		22	4
Diseases ill-defined or unknown...										
Totals	62	8	1	1	2	5	9	6	30	6

TABLE IV.

**Infant Mortality during the year 1913 in the
Potterspurry Rural District.**

**Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under
1 year of age.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 in mths	3-6 in mths	9-12 in mths	Total deaths under 1 year
All causes { Certified. { Uncertified.								
Small-pox								
Chicken-pox								
Measles								
Scarlet fever								
Whooping-Cough								
Diphtheria and Croup								
Erysipelas								
Tuberculous Meningitis								
Abdominal Tuberculosis								
Other Tuberculous Diseases								
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)								
Convulsions								
Laryngitis								
Bronchitis							1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)						1		1
Diarrhoea					1			1
Enteritis		1		1				1
Gastritis								
Syphilis								
Rickets								
Suffocation, overlying								
Injury at birth								
Atelectasis								
Congenital Malformations...								
Premature birth	1			1				1
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	1	1	1	3				3
Other Causes								
Totals	2	2	1	5	1	1	1	8

Nett Births { legitimate 88
in the year { illegitimate 1

Nett Deaths in { legitimate infants 8
the year of { illegitimate infants 0

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1913, for the Rural District of Potterspury, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—Inspection.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	2		
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	14		
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report) ...			
Total	16		

2.—Defects Found.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions	
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector		
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—					
Want of Cleanliness	}	NIL			
Want of Ventilation					
Overcrowding					
Want of drainage of floors					
Other nuisances					
Sanitary accommodation {					insufficient
					unsuitable or defective... ..
					not separate for sexes
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act—					
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	}	NIL			
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake-houses (ss. 97 to 100)					
Other offences (excluding offences relating to out-work which are included in Part 3 of this report)					
Total					

3—HOME WORK.

OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.											
NATURE OF WORK.	Lists received from Employers.					Prosecutions.		OUTWORK IN UN- WHOLESOME PREMISES (SECTION 108).		OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES (SECTIONS 109, 110).	
	Sending twice in the year		Sending once in the year		Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.	Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.			
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.					Outworkers.		
		Con- tractors.	Work- men.						Con- tractors.		Work- men.
<div>NIL</div>											
Wearing Apparel— (1) making, &c. (2) cleaning and washing Household linen Lace, lace curtains and nets.... Curtains & furniture hangings Furniture and upholstery Electro-plate File making Brass and Brass articles Fur pulling Cables and chains Anchors and Grapnels Cart gear Locks, latches and keys Umbrellas, &c. Artificial flowers Nets, other than wire nets Tents Sacks Racquet and tennis balls Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags Brush making Pea picking Feather sorting Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. Stuffed toys Basket making Chocolates and sweetmeats Cosques, Xmas crackers, &c. Textile weaving... ..											

4.—Registered Factories.

Factories on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year :—

	Number
E. & H. Roberts, Deanshanger Iron Works	1
Midland Automobile Co., Old Stratford, Motor & Cycle Works	1
	—
Total number of Factories on Register ...	2

5.—Other Matters.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—

	Class	Number
Failure to Affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)		Nil
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5)	Notified by H.M. Inspector Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	Nil
Other		Nil
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):—		
Certificates granted during the year		Nil
In use at the end of the year		1

